


The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert

Authors' surnames beginning with

Cr-Cu



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
University of Alberta Libraries

https://archive.org/details/cuthbertreviews_cr-cu

Crabtree, Adam

Multiple Man: Explorations in Possession and Multiple Personality; Toronto, Collins Publishers, (1985, author); Introduction by Colin Wilson; Bibliography; Index 278p.

This is the first history and summary of the subject of multiple personality I have read. It is probably the most exciting book I have read since The Girl on the Volkswagen Floor by William A. Clark. Clark's book stirred my emotions more, but this book is stimulating intellectually also.

The book is divided into four sections. The first is a historical review of Multiple Personality; the second, an exploration of what Crabtree calls the possession experience; the third outlines cases selected from his experience of 50 such with which he has dealt; and the fourth explains the occult and the psychological approaches to understanding the phenomenon, and gives his philosophical reflections.

It is obvious from the text and the bibliography that Crabtree is a sincere student of human personality. However, I suspect that he has not read completely the books included in the bibliography, because there are some cases important for consideration which he does not mention. Also, although Chris Sizemore is quoted as recommending this book, Crabtree does not appear to be aware of The Final Face of Eve, the third book concerning the subject of The Three Faces of Eve.

There are also whole areas of abnormal psychology, like idiot savants, mathematical prodigies, supernormal dreams, musical prodigies, which are not even commented upon, though they have important bearing on multiple personality.

I consider this book to be one which should be in every person's library of important books. I have already sent to two of my correspondents the message that they should buy or read it.

Crabtree emphasises that he considers our present knowledge is insufficient to enable us to say we know definitely all that is necessary about possession and multiple personality. His method of treatment is to accept the client's own feeling or description of the problem as if it were the correct view, and deal with it accordingly. Although he is quite dogmatic in the statements made, he is open-minded and humble in saying that investigation of the subject has hardly begun.

Crafton, Allen

Children's fantasy.

The Stranger Star; Cleveland, The Goldsmith Publishing
Co. (1923, George Sully and Company) 129p.

Mr. Barny Owl (who prefers the name Brainy) tells two children about how a strange girl star replaced the Moon Mother's maid, becoming a Cinderella whose worth was not established until an Angel Messenger, unable to find anyone worthy to receive his message, discovered her.

Mr. Owl's chapters are interrupted by introductory remarks and incidents concerning the children, and the moral teaching becomes a bit too apparent. The story is precious rather than natural, so I do not esteem the book.

A Hazard at Hansard; London, Arthur H. Stockwell, 1925
(Copyright in Canada Number 1999, Registered 31st October,
1924) 31p.

Bound in heavy black pasteboard, this book purports to be a forecast of the Speech from the Throne, Ottawa, Fourth August, 2014, and reviews developments in Canada during the years since the close of the first World War.

The 19th century was marked by specialization and repetitive labor, the opening of rich new lands, increase in food supply, investigations of the physical world, rose in population followed by vast migrations, literacy and a cheap press ruining the general mind, speed of production followed by a desire for ease, and a lower standard of health.

In spite of material plenty, and-abounding revenues, national debts expanded and currencies depreciated; respect for law declined. With ample leisure and useful goods, the mind of man was ill at ease because idle.

At the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, Canada was all but given over to the money-lender. Railways and immigration would not pay.

Awareness of duty compelled that interest on the national debt was to be paid each year, and a sum set aside to retire the debt in 75 years. All new loans were restricted to $\frac{1}{2}$ the prospective life of the purchase; no disbursement could be made from a loanfund until $\frac{1}{3}$ of the purchase price was in hand from taxes. Current public debts are less than $\frac{1}{5}$ value of purchased assets, liabilities are offset by cash, currency consists of copper and silver coins and gold certificates, and cost of government is less than in 1874.

The public schools were closed, leaving education of the children to their parents. Children were first taught how to make a living, then they attacked education on their own behalf. After the burden of education was lightened, the burden of law was eased; statute law was codified. No new law might be passed unless two old ones were removed from the books.

Juries were given the job of punishment; jails were replaced by guardians of criminals in their homes; every taxpayer had to serve jury duty as the price of citizenship. Law guards were appointed, highly educated and well-paid, half their pay coming from the federal government and half from municipal. The police otherwise were removed, cutting forces to $\frac{1}{5}$. Life guards were educated by Naval Service and Militia from 16 to 30 years of age; only sons of taxpayers being eligible. MPs paid \$12,000; cabinet ministers additional 20,000; prime minister 75,000; 10 secretaries of departments \$5. annually in addition to the \$12,000. 2 years' grace to newly-elected members; the first to study Canada, the second to study world affairs.

Housing in apartments led to wasteful purchasing since the householder could not store food. This was revised by increasing individual homeowners, with houses to last 200 years instead of 50, and made fireproof to cut insurance and loss costs. Trade is by cash and cash books; banks at a minimum as each householder has a safe.

This is not fiction; it is, rather, speculative politics.

Cram, Mildred

Forever; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1946; (April 22, 1938, reprinted eight times, tenth printing, April, 1946; 1934, 1935, author) 60p.

This story of eternal lovers starts before their birth into the modern world and ends in France where they meet and have de-ja vu recognitions although the girl is married to a man she is in love with and the man is engaged.

The girl's husband, busy with business affairs, has stayed in Paris but arrives at the scene in time to realize that his wife has changed and wonders if she has met a rival, which she denies. However, both eternal lovers are killed in separate accidents and that means that the husband learns of the affair from the landlord of the inn.

For me, this novelette of reincarnation is spoiled by the girl lying to her husband. The popularity of the book proves the fascination of the theme, however, and interest in survival of the spirit or soul.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 21, 1999

MANITOBA
GOVERNMENT
SERVICES
1-800-787-8288
www.manitoba.ca

CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA

Cram, Mildred

Kingdom of Innocents; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1940 296p.

The title is spread over two pages to accommodate a quotation from Arthur Machen's Far-off-things.

This is a strange book, telling of a boy and a girl of neighboring families are left orphans at the age of thirteen and make a pact that they will never grow up. Even at twenty years they are innocent of the world and its ways and do not understand the people who would take advantage of them if they were not in charge of a firm of lawyers, their friends.

The brother of one of their mothers brings a group of his friends to the mansion and takes advantage of the boy's innocence and money. The lawyers are killed in an automobile accident and their appointed successors find the couple so strange that they try to arrange their commitment to an insane asylum.

Becoming aware of their danger by advice from a 600-year old retainer, they agree to grow up, fall in love, and by 1980 have a family and adjustment to the world.

This book has birds and beasts talking to humans, mythological characters as companions to the children, and an unrealistic portrayal of the children while under the spell of their pact. I can recall only one book similarly written: The Quest by Frederick Van Eeden.

There are some psychic incidents to add to the fantasy of the novel, but I cannot rate it highly.

Chester D. Cuthbert
October 19, 1999

Cram, Mildred

The promise; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1949 (1949, author)
68p.

This novelette tells of a couple about to divorce because the wife wishes to concentrate on her career as a radio singer, who are involved in an automobile accident and meet a hermit who shelters them overnight and implies that they have died in the accident as have others before them on that stretch of road. He cares for animals and birds and in the morning carves stakes with their names on them and begs them when they ascend a mountain to heaven to get God to care for the animals because he expects to die at Christmas and lacks the resources to feed them during the winter. The couple promise to do so but are told by an officer investigating the car accident that the old man is mentally ill.

As Christmas approaches, the husband drinks excessively at the prospective loss of his wife, but remembers his promise to the old man, stocks up with food for the animals and takes it to the cabin; his wife follows and they are reconciled when she abandons her career and they decide to live in the cabin and save the animals, thus keeping their promise.

Apart from the forecasting of his death by the hermit, there is no element of fantasy in this story excepting the doubt about whether the couple had been killed in the accident. As a means to bring about reconciliation, the story has merit.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 21, 1999

Customer Centre
Manitoba
1-800-267-8282
www.manitoba.ca

CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA

Cram, Mildred

The Tide; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1924 (1923,1924,
author) 321p.

I read this novel only because the author had written two fantasies and I wished to see if this might also qualify.

Lilah is a 27-year old beautiful but inexperienced woman left penniless by the death of her father. A wealthy young man who loves her marries her, ignoring a nurse who loves him. As she is admired by the grandfather of her husband, Lilah spends her husband's money recklessly to bolster her image, hires the nurse as her secretary, falls in love with a gassed war veteran and asks her husband for a divorce, only to have the veteran die leaving her penniless again.

She seeks employment in the garment industry in New York, but is able to earn only a bare living. The grandfather seeks her out and the book ends with Lilah's likelihood of returning to her husband.

This portrayal of a selfish society-climber is exactly the kind of book I detest. The falsehood of social standards and the aimlessness of the idle rich disgusts me.

Chester D. Cuthbert
October 20, 1999



CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA

Crawford, F. Marion

The Little City of Hope: A Christmas Story; New York, The Macmillan Company; Illustrated by W. Benda (1907, author) 209p.

I have two copies of this book, a large size with ornamental cover and a smaller sized red cloth binding with black lettering, but apparently printed from the same plates the alternate pages having ornamental borders of different colors, very artistic with the intention of making this a gift book.

Although listed in Bleiler 1 as fantasy, apart from the motor invented by a poverty-stricken inventor it is merely a mundane story of the man and his thirteen year old son living apart from the boy's mother who had a job as governess to a wealthy family travelling in Munich so she could earn money while the invention was proceeding.

Inept at finances, the inventor overdraws his bank account and faces a bleak Christmas when the bank refuses a loan to finance completion of the motor. The son has built from scraps a model of the city where his parent had lived when they got married, and the father recognizes the genius of a future architect. Confessing his plight to his son, the inventor fears that even the turkey and ice cream wish of the boy for Christmas may be unfulfilled. The boy sells his skates and watch for a few dollars, but at the last moment the mother sends her savings of a thousand dollars and a pleasant Christmas is assured when her employers and she return in time for the mother to rejoin the men.

Although contrived and sentimental, this book is suited for its purpose; Crawford was one of the most popular novelists of his time.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 21, 1999



CUSTOMER
CENTRE

MANITOBA

Crawford, F. Marion

The Novel: What It Is; New York, Macmillan and Company
1893 (1893) 108p.

Crawford says it is the intention of the novel to permit the reader to carry a stage around in his pocket. The novelist's duty is to entertain, not to preach, moralize, or instruct, excepting incidentally to his duty to reach the heart of the reader by portraying interesting characters and events. As the appeal must be universal rather than to any special group, dialect should be used sparingly.

The novelist must be a student of people and their lives, and should preferably find his main interest in them rather than in things. His knowledge of human nature should be broad enough to enable him to find unerringly those essentials of human interest which he must always exaggerate with sufficient artistry to interest, but not so much as to create the effect of unreality.

Crawford, F. Marion

The Upper Berth; London, New York, Toronto, Hodder and
Stoughton, no date; frontispiece (Sevenpenny Library), 1913
date on final page 132p.

The Upper Berth	5
By the Waters of Paradise	69

Note: These two stories were earlier published in
"Wandering Ghosts". I believe, also, that "The Upper Berth"
was published as a small volume by itself.

Crawford, Isabell C.

Canadian

"The Tapestry of Time"; Boston, The Christopher Publishing House, 1927. 11-365 pp.

The first quarter of this book describes the fall of Atlantis, through misuse of Atomic power by "The Poet", brother of the Lotus Lily wife of King Lumnos of Atlantis. The King, once a student of Astrillon, astrologer and wise man, has become a "toothless lion" through indulgence, and fails to heed Astrillon's warnings.

Astrillon, his two wives, and his daughter Estrella, with a small group of friends escapes the drowning of Atlantis, going by ship to Peru where he builds by Atomic power drawn from the sun's rays a small city, ^{Belosarian} in a sheltered valley, making friends with the Incas and marrying his daughter to Beldenis who was formerly a slave of Mascallon, an Atlantean noble friend of Astrillon, but who was freed with all other slaves who accompanied Astrillon to Peru.

King Lumnos escapes with "Rollo" rightful King of Creta who had renounced his duties in favor of studying as a slave of Astrillon. "Rollo" - actually Terustes - visits his brother who is now King of Creta; finds him a powerful and just king and leaves him as ruler, becoming instead the son-in-law and successor to the Chief of Athros, a primitive tribal community. His wife Theonix is psychic and a seer like Astrillon, and thwarts the attempt of Egypt's envoy to kill Taledos, King of Creta, who visits Terustes in Athros later.

The characters are well drawn, there is a nobility of thought and action suitable to the mighty theme of the rise and fall of nations; the several love affairs are depicted with an understanding which reveals the author as a woman of wide and wise knowledge of humanity. The dialogue is written in the archaic style of medieval times, however, and

maker the book "King" in the making of it.

His is still well above the average novel, and is probably one of the most interesting in the theme of the destruction of Atlantis and the influence of the few survivors on the building of the new civilization which follows.

Crawford, M. Mac Dermot

Peeps into the Psychic World: The Occult Influence of
Jewels and Many Other Things; London, The Eveleigh Nash Com-
pany Limited, 1916 207p.

This is a superficial recounting of psychic experiences
of friends of the author, with reprinting of the newspaper
articles of Arthur Machen on the Bowmen of Mons, and with a
longer account of the Beresford Ghost than I have read else-
where.

Chapters 2 & 7 deal with reincarnation.

This is a popular introduction to psychic experiences,
but of little service to the student, apart from the chapters
indicated above.

Creighton, David; Fidler, Brian; Rutkowski, Chris

Mysterious Manitoba; Illustrated by Brian Fidler; Winnipeg
and Brandon, Manitoba; Uforum/Seekers, 1997; Index 87p.

Actually, each section of this booklet was written separately by members of each organization; the Brandon writers could have profited if they had sought Rutkowski's help in proof-reading and composition; there are also a few printing errors.

However, this booklet is an updating of Rutkowski's earlier book Unnatural History: True Manitoba Mysteries, providing new actual cases of paranormal events, none of which give answers to the riddle of how they may occur or any solution of unsolved but actual events affecting witnesses.

I agree with Rutkowski's scientific viewpoint: recording the events, but attempting no hypotheses and recommending further investigation. He is reasonably sceptical, but open-minded.

The authors investigate without having their expenses paid other than by themselves, and this booklet is priced at \$12.00, so its limited circulation will not contribute much towards their outlay. Their sincerity is obvious and praiseworthy.

Chester D. Cuthbert
October 26, 1997

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
C A S E FÊTE

FirstCity Trust

Crews, Harry

The Gypsy's Curse; Simon & Schuster of Canada, Ltd.,
(Pocket Books #80688), (1974, Crews), (Knopf) 190p.

The title is derived from a Spanish saying indicating that a woman who provides ecstatic sexual satisfaction can obsess a man so that this is the most important thing in the world for him.

Narrated by a deaf-mute whose legs are useless, but who can read lips and communicate by signs, and who weighs only 90 pounds by has biceps of 20" and can attain a one-finger handstand, it concerns himself, a strongman whose head was run over by a car leaving him with a cauliflower ear, a punch-drunk ex-fighter and an equally punch-drunk younger fighter being coached by the strongman and the older fighter, and the ideal sex-woman who claims to wish to leave her lover and his sponge-boat and live with the four.

This woman is erratic, always seeking new sensations, who has deaf-mute parents whom she locks into a room for a week at a time according to her father, who excuses any action against his daughter on the grounds that she provokes it. The narrator finds the woman returning to her sponge-boat lover; kills her, and hopes that a diary she has left saying she might provoke a lover who loved her enough to kill her may relieve him of responsibility for the killing.

A bizarre story of outcasts from society.

Crichton, Michael

Congo; New York, Avon Books (#56176), (October, 1981),
(1980, author 295p.

A woman genius computer expert enlists the help of a man who trains gorillas to take a female ape Amy to Africa and find a hidden city in the Congo rain forest which is rumored to have eliminated previous expeditions by crushed skulls. The purpose of the expedition is to gather industrial grade diamonds which are excellent conductors for future computer developments.

An experienced explorer is engaged to guide the expedition and although he is rich and demands high fees, he is expert and helps greatly. Discovered in the city are wall paintings which indicate that an early civilization trained a species of gray gorilla to battle invaders; and these continue to defend the city almost wiping out the expedition. Amy communicates with the new species and helps a few survivors.

Details of apes and gorillas and of computer science are apparently authentic, and the author lists an extensive bibliography. Much of the scientific material was beyond my grasp, but this book is well written and interesting.

The author shows that computers are now making decisions at speeds beyond the capability of humans, and that gorillas have intelligence possibly superior to humans.

Coalition for Reproductive Choice,
Box 51, Station "L",
Winnipeg, Man.
R3H 0Z4.

Dear Choice Supporter:

You are invited to a Choice Celebration. We will celebrate the first anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision recognizing a woman's right to reproductive freedom. We will honour Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who fought with us to win this right.

A Choice Celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 1989, at the International Inn. A presentation to Dr. Morgentaler will be made at 8:00 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served.

We hope to accomplish two goals from this event. First, we intend to develop resources to lobby the Federal Government regarding the introduction of any restrictive legislation on abortion. We need the voice of Manitobans to be heard. We have a critical role to play in the upcoming debate.

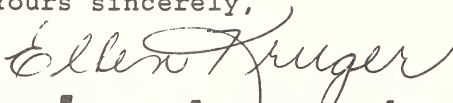
Second, we want to mount a legal challenge to the Provincial Government's decision to refuse to pay for abortions outside of hospitals. We know that abortions in approved medical facilities such as community health clinics are safer and less costly. We believe the government is acting unethically, perhaps unconstitutionally.

Tickets for this Choice Celebration are available at a cost of \$25.00. Larger donations are welcomed. Benefactors, who contribute \$200.00 and over and donors (\$100.00 - \$199.00) will be acknowledged in the evening's program.

Tickets can be purchased at Bold Print, 478-A River Avenue, the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, 16 - 222 Osborne Street, Times Change Restaurant on Main and St. Mary's, or the National Council of Jewish Women at the Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre, 1588 Main Street. Reservations will be accepted by mail at the Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Please join us, to celebrate our past victory, to honour Dr. Morgentaler, and to help ensure that our right to reproductive choice will be retained.

Yours sincerely,



Choice A campaign for reproductive freedom
♀

Crichton, Neil

C4

Rerun: A Novel; Don Mills, Ontario, Musson Book Company (1976, author) 213p.

This is a reasonably well written novel about a man who re-lives many years of his life because of an unexplained natural phenomenon which thrusts him back in time. I was reminded particularly of Once Again by E. J. Rath.

An Edmonton advertising man Charles Johnson marries and moves to Vancouver. His wife and child are killed in a motor accident; he loses interest in his business career, and believes himself about to be fired.

A noisy and brilliant flash of light causes his disappearance while two men are watching him. He awakens back in Edmonton at a time before his marriage, and re-lives his life, this time staying in Edmonton and becoming a wealthy financier whose business interests cause him to lose contact with his wife and son. She becomes a jet-setter, has an affair with a French movie-maker which leaves her doubting the paternity of her child and causing her health to break down; and Johnson, despite his wealth, finds himself becoming a playboy without any real friends or family.

In the end, a repetition of the natural phenomenon brings a further regression in time, and Johnson awakens to find himself a six-year-old.

Johnson is able to remember vaguely future events, and this faculty assists him to his great wealth. However, he is unable to forecast the future in detail, and this brings him great troubles and financial losses because he has used the ideas of others.

The author's problem with this story is that he builds up alternate life-stories enabling his protagonist to influence the course of events from what they had been in the original time-stream. The story is interesting, but inconclusive. The unexplained phenomenon which causes the alteration in time awareness is another weakness.

Crichton, Robert

The Rascal and the Road; New York, Random House (1959,
1961, Crichton) 213p.

This is a sequel to The Great Impostor. Intending to write a biography of Ferdinand Waldo Demara, Crichton offers to accompany him to the scenes of his former impersonations. They set off in Crichton's old car, leaving Crichton's pregnant wife and family at his home, and financed by an advance from Random House.

Demara is amusing and entertaining, but moody and starts drinking heavily. Crichton's wife Judy fears that Demara is dangerous, and this is confirmed by a psychoanalyst she consults, who warns Crichton.

The two encounter recognition of Demara, scenes which trouble him, and near the end of the book, a notebook in which Crichton has detailed his impressions is lost. Demara wishes to deliver Judy's baby, and Crichton hasn't the heart to admit that Judy does not want this; Demara buys some new obstetrical texts before he knows that he will not be operating, and departs in a huff when he learns.

Aside from the portrayal of Demara, this book has no importance, though it is amusing.

On page 179 is this important passage:

I know that at times Demara has been haunted with the idea that his body becomes possessed by spirits or forces other than his own. He feels that part of this comes from the confusion of all his identities but part of it is something that he can't account for or explain. He asked me, for the first time, to read some of the things I had managed to get down and while I did I noticed him struggling, I feel, to identify who was talking through him.

"I don't like the son of a bitch," he suddenly said. And that was the end of the affair; we never said another word about it.

Crichton-Miller, H.

Psycho-Analysis and Its Derivatives; Second Edition; London/New York/Toronto, Oxford University Press (1950), (1933, 1937, 1945, 1948), Appendices; Bibliography; Index 272p.

This is an excellent summary of the major systems of psychoanalysis, with much interesting additional information to that in the first edition.

The author points out that Freud is a determinist and that although his system is alleged to be scientific, it does not accept criticism and has become rigid.

Jung's system is more philosophy than science, and goes beyond methodological treatment into mysticism and metaphysics.

Adler's system is pragmatic and practical, denying the influence of heredity and concentrating on the sociological and personal drive for superiority. I would rather say that it seeks to eliminate the feeling of inferiority and to enable the patient to adjust himself to a realistic acceptance of his place in society.

Prinzhorn's system is broader than any of the others, but perhaps less systematic.

Although Adler denies the importance of heredity, he accepts Freud's fatalism philosophically, and fails to use it in practice. Adler's system is comparatively simple and practical, and will probably prove useful in most superficial cases.

Crick, Bernard

Crime, Rape and Gin; Buffalo, New York, Prometheus Books,
(1974, author); Notes 96 p.

Subtitled "Reflections on contemporary attitudes to violence pornography and addiction", this book provides the author's personal views as a professor of politics. He advocates a middle and moderate view, saying that no evidence is available to prove that any of these sociological problems constitutes a threat really serious to society as a whole; they are limited in number by comparison with the population.

He refers to the Oz controversy although the magazine had discontinued publication.

There are some interesting tables giving statistics on the three problems.

Reference is primarily to British sources.

THE 67th WINNIPEG

SCOUT GROUP

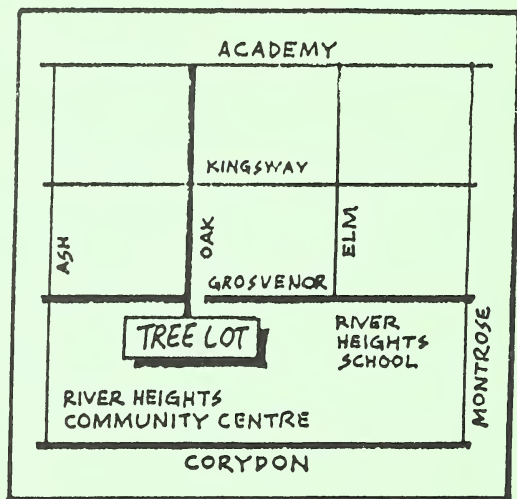
Christmas Trees

AVAILABLE AT
River Heights Community Centre

TENNIS COURTS AT OAK AND GROSVENOR



HELP SUPPORT
BEAVERS, CUBS
SCOUTS AND
VENTURERS!



PRICES

\$13.00 - \$30.00

MANITOBA SPRUCE

- UNDER 7 FT. \$13.00
- 7 FT. AND OVER. \$16.00

* DOUGLAS FIR

- UNDER 7 FT. \$17.00
- 7 FT. AND OVER. \$20.00

* SCOTCH PINE

- 5 - 6 FEET. \$25.00
- 6 - 7 FEET. \$27.00
- 7 - 8 FEET. \$30.00

* PLANTATION GROWN

OPEN SATURDAY - DECEMBER 7 '91

WEEKDAYS

4:30 - 9:00 PM

SATURDAYS

9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

SUNDAYS

NOON - 6:00 PM

OUR **27** YEAR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Cristiani, Leon

Evidence of Satan in the Modern World; New York, Avon Books (#25122); (August, 1975); (1961,, Barrie & Rockliff); Index 250p

Mention of this book as authoritative in Doug Warren's Demonic Possession led me to discover here mention of the Cure D'ars as an exorcist, a good historical survey of exorcism with details of important cases I had not previously encountered, Lourdes, and many important cases given at length and with authority. Notes would be too extensive, but fortunately the index is helpful, and I can recommend this book as one of the most important I have read on the subject.

Chester D. Cuthbert
April 26, #998

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
Ç A S E F Ê T E !

FirstCity Trust

Crockett, Vivian

Messalina; New York, Berkley Publishing Corp. (#G-14)
(December, 1955), (1924, Boni & Liveright Inc.) 188p.
(#D2012), (2nd Printing, October, 1959) 188p.

This book, covering five sections in the life of Messalina, can be considered as a pendant to Graves' two volumes on Claudius, whose wife she was.

Although it suggests the life of the Roman Empire, it is unimportant by comparison with Graves' volumes, and can be dispensed with. It confirms what Graves wrote, gives a glimpse of Messalina's earlier life which his study lacks, is unsympathetic towards Claudius, but seems to assess Messalina accurately. It is difficult to understand how a woman exercising so much power could end up a coward.

The Bewildered Querists and Other Nonsense; New York,
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1875 (1874, Putnam's) 127p.

Contents

1. The Bewildered Querists	5
Introductory	5
1. Cremation	12
2. Drinks	19
3. Mottoes and Laws	27
4. Dramatic Fragment	32
5. Examination Paper	35
6. To Beat or Not to Beat	41
7. Excuses	54
8. Journalistic	62
2. Woman's Worth	71A
3. Cuts and Guards	90A
4. The Logic of Sloth	98A
5. Autophotographs	104A
6. Emphasis as a Vehicle of Malice	112A
7. Euphemisms	119A

#1 is a series of humorous essays cast in the form of fiction. Pages 77-78 touch on the subject of spiritualism, but there is nothing else in the volume which is specifically of interest to the fantasy field. Much of the humor consists of plays on words, and puns; and the articles designated also carry on the emphasis of language.

These essays are well written and interesting, but of no bearing on the field of fantasy.

Crofton, Francis Blake

Hairbreadth Escapes of Major Mendax. His Perilous ~~xxx~~
~~xxxxx~~ Encounters, Startling Adventures, and Daring Exploits
with Indians, Cannibals, Wild Beasts, Serpents, Balloons,
Geysers, etc., etc., All Over the World, in the Bowels of
the Earth and Above the Clouds. A Personal Narrative. (The
Book for Boys); With Spirited Illustrations by Bennett;
Edgwood Publishing Company(1889 Hubbard Brothers); Ill.236p.

These are short anecdotal tales told to two boys, Bob
and Bill, both of whom ask embarrassing questions, though
the Major has some fairly humorous or brazen replies. The
61 chapters have many humorous as well as mendacious aspects
and probably this book qualifies as fantasy like Baron Mun-
chausen's. Probably some of Stephen Leacock's tales would
come close to these.

(Crookes) Medhurst, R. G.

Crookes and the Spirit World; New York, Taplinger Publishing Company (1972, Souvenir Press Ltd., R. G. Medhurst, K. M. Goldney and M. R. Barrington; Index, 250p.

Researches in the Phenomena of Spiritualism, with an Appendix by Sir A. Conan Doyle; Manchester, Two Worlds Publishing Company Ltd.; London, The Psychic Bookshop, 1926; Illustrated; Index 147p.

The earlier edition of this book I read over forty years ago and it impressed me so much that I lent it to Don Comstock, a skeptical member of our local magicians' club, who admitted that it was the most convincing book he had ever read concerning the reality of psychic phenomena and the genuineness of the psychic Daniel Dunglas Home.

The more recent edition assembles material not included in the earlier, which, in turn, contains some correspondence not reprinted and a photograph frontispiece of Crookes. Therefore, I must retain both books for reference.

The new material is from the archives of the SPR and may not have been previously published because the phenomena described are truly astounding. It is quite apparent that in his declining years Crookes accepted the spiritualist survival philosophy even though he was convinced also that some of the phenomena were the work of alien or even demonic intelligences.

It is true that the seances were not conducted under rigid scientific controls warranted by modern technology, but anyone reading the notes made by Crookes must be convinced that he was right to declare years after his first experiments that he had nothing to retract of the evidence he presented in his first articles and book. Curiously, because modern mediums do not match the phenomena exhibited by Home, Crookes's testimony is discounted.

Having read everything by and about Home that I could find, I am convinced that he was the greatest medium the world has been privileged to witness. He insisted on seances in full light, was insistent that sitters satisfy themselves that he had no opportunity for fraud, and was never found guilty of fraud.

For me, the most convincing evidence of the survival of human personality is provided in the books of Gladys Osborne Leonard. Most of the phenomena of Home were physical, whereas Mrs. Leonard was mainly a "mental" medium.

Crookes kept on with family and friends seances year after year, with the greatest medium and with companions like Alfred Russel Wallace and other highly intelligent people. That he was a credulous fool is impossible.

Chester D. Cuthbert
August 25, 1997

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 9Y9
(204) 831-7777

CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
Ç A S E F Ê T E !

FirstCity Trust

Cropper, Margaret

Life of Evelyn Underhill; With a Memoir of Lucy Menzies
by Lumsden Barkway; Illustrated; New York, Harper & Brothers
(1958, Cropper); Epilogue; Index 244p.

Married after a five year engagement to Hubert Stuart Moore, Evelyn Underhill had already written two novels and other material. Her industrious life was marked by ill health, which she overstrained by teaching, lectures, and detailed research. There were few incidents worthy of note in her life; she studied occultism with Arthur Machen; she read the first of C. S. Lewis's interplanetary novels and was a devotee of M. R. James's Ghost Stories, mystery books and possibly other fantasy in addition to her mystical researches.

This book is not worth re-reading, but possibly should be retained for references in the index.

Cross, Ethelbert F. H.

Fire and Frost: Stories, Dialogues, Satires, Essays,
Poems, etc.; Toronto, The Bryant Press, 1898; 239pp.

Contents

iii. Preface	iii.
v. Index	v.
1. The Splendid Soul	1*S
2. Spirit - Sonnet	6 P
3. A Face on King Street	7*
4. The Eternal Fires	15 P
5. Accursed Sleep	16 P
6. The Great Days	17 E
7. Scene from "Azrael" : The Drama of Death	27*PP
8. Thou Shalt Not Smile	29 S
9. A Guest of God	37
10. A Tragic Smile	49*
11. Genius and Patriotism	56 E
12. Apollo and Tomkins	63 D
13. The Last Patient	66*
14. Two Historic Costumes	74*H
15. An Exile from Erin (T. D'Arcy McGee)	78 E
16. An Ode to a Book	89 P
17. At the Point	92 H
18. Impressions of Rossetti	95 E
19. The Fall of the Curate	102
20. The Terrible Tale	107
21. A Poet-Politician (Mazzini)	110 E
22. Utopia	128 P
23. The Intruder	130*S
24. The Yellow Mask	134
25. The Master Marksman	139 H
26. A Midnight Minstrel (James Thomson)	145 E
27. A Tale of the Twelfth	161 H
28. The Triumph of Realism	167
29. Peace and War	173 D
30. One Chum	176
31. A Master of Intrigue (Talleyrand)	183 E
32. Love and Pride	196 P
33. A Rebel	197
34. Sweet Marie	202
35. A Memory	208
36. The Devil and Mrs. Grundy	212*D
37. King Billy and St. Pat.	217*D
38. Jonah and the Whale	220*D
39. The Haunted Trolley	223*
40. Politics and a Fine Art	226 E
41. Impressions of a Poet	227 E
42. Extraordinary Episode	229*
43. City Celestial	234 P
44. Something	238 PP

#17 is missing from the Index - there is no Contents Page. Probably the essays are the most worthwhile items in the book. About all that can be said of the stories is that they are mercifully short. The author is an idealist whose thought is mainly shallow, and whose poetry is flowery rather than significant.

S - Satire; P - Poetry; E - Essay; D - Dialogue; -PP Prose Poem; H - Humor (These are mainly the author's classifications)

Best Black Magic Stories; London, Faber and Faber (1960)
269p.

Contents

Introduction	John Keir Cross	9
1. The Earlier Service	Margaret Irwin	17
2. The Lady on the Grey	John Collier	33
3. A Room in Leyden	Richard Barham	42
4. Mothering Sunday	John Keir Cross	66
5. The Snake	Dennis Wheatley	81
6. The Hill	R. Ellis Roberts	96
7. Casting the Runes	M. R. James	110
8. More Spinned Against...	John Wyndham	133
9. The Haunted and the Haunters	Lord Lytton	146
10. Homecoming	Ray Bradbury	185
11. Couching at the Door	D. K. Broster	200
12. A/ Way of Thinking	Theodore Sturgeon	225
13. The Black Mass	Joris-Karl Huysmans	256
14x		
Envoi	John Keir Cross	266

#3 is a re-titling of "A Singular Passage in the Life of the Late Henry Harris, Doctor in Divinity, as Related by his Friend, Thomas Ingoldsby.

#13 is an excerpt from La Bas.

Of the stories read from this volume, the two most impressive were #6 and #12. Others are classics, and this is a good anthology.

The Introduction and Envoi outline an event which is alleged to suggest an instance of Black Magic.

Crothers, Samuel McChord

The Endless Life; Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1905 (1905, Author) 55p.

This Ingersoll Lecture affirms its subject as giving meaning to life which is more than transitory.

Historically, opium mania is a very old disorder. Morphinomania is its modern form, and the various drug narcomanias associated with it are the new psychopathic forms due largely to modern civilization.

Hieroglyphics of early Egyptian civilization make first mention of the use of opium. Homer's fourth book of the "Odyssey" describes a drug probably opium sent to Helen from the wife of Thone, an Egyptian King. Hippocrates was among the first to recommend its use internally. The Egyptian priests believed that it led the mind into the spiritual world, and that the sleep following its use was a bridge to connect the soul with the home of the gods.

Historically, opium was first used as a medicine in the first centuries of the Christian era; for the removal of pain and discomfort. The discovery of the value of the juice and the extract was probably made by the Greeks. Arabian physicians made the first studies of its value in diseases, probably using a decoction of the bruised leaf and seed-pod, or an infusion made from the crushed stems.

In 1786, Dr. John Leigh wrote a prize essay called "Opium and Its Effects" before the Harveian Society. In Europe the poppy was used as a remedy for headaches and general diseases; for suppressing dysentery and diarrhea. In 1809, Dr. Ward of Manchester said that opium rubbed on the skin would be absorbed by the lymphatics, allaying irritation and pain and producing sleep. This ultimately became the hypodermic use of opium and its alkaloids. In 1838, Dr. Rolland praised opium paste for local neuralgias and painful sores. In 1855, Dr. Wood of Edinburgh advised making an incision in the skin and injecting the drug into the tissue. Later a syringe was used by which a watery solution of opium was injected.

Not until 1864 did warnings of the use of morphin as an addiction appear. In 1866 Pravatz introduced into the French army a compact little syringe by which morphin was injected under the skin, in the treatment of wounds in both field and hospital. From this time the needle became prominent. Dr. Kane warned that morphin should never be used hypodermically in chronic disease of the kidneys; was dangerous in delirium tremens and mania; also in anaemia and diseases of the lungs.

In 1870 Allbutt said that though the drug relieved severe pain, it caused an artificial craving with marked symptoms of poisoning. Many persons after a few years' addiction to morphin become invalids and die from other diseases, morphinism not being recognized as the original cause. Ordinarily not one tenth of the cases of morphinism are known except to intimate friends. Morphinists accept opium as second best, if they can't get morphin, or laudanum or paregoric, or even crude poppy gum. The use of morphin as a pain-killer spread the addiction.

Morphinism as a disease is probably due in large measure to modern civilization, associated with the rapid exhaustion following changes of life and living; from absence of nerve rest, and the continual strain upon the organization in its effort to become adapted to new environment. This is accompanied by discomfort and pain, for which morphin is a temporary alleviation. Once made, the impression of rest and removal of suffering is rarely effaced, and the desire to resort to the remedy again under stress is irresistible. Neurasthenia and cerebraesthesia are new differentiations of nervous defects; morphin gives temporary relief and conceals the real condition while intensifying it and increasing it.

Crow, W. B.

A History of Witchcraft, Magic and Occultism; 1972 Edition;
North Hollywood, California, The Wilshire Book Company; (June,
1968, Author) 316p.

Surprisingly, the author appears British, and this book is an excellent, well-researched summary of its subjects. The author on page 12 of his Introduction expresses his view as follows:

"The phenomena are too widespread to be dismissed as delusion and fraud. Some of the events have been imitated by conjurors, but this does not mean that they have all been produced by trickery." (This is a clear statement of my viewpoint. CDC)

Unfortunately there is no index to this book, and although I consider it reliable it is so concisely written that many details are lacking. Whole books which I have read are condensed to a few paragraphs, much as these notes fail to do justice to the value of Crow's book.

Even so serious a student as Crow can possibly be misled by what he reads. He seems to accept that de Rais was the original Bluebeard and was black bearded, whereas Beneditti believes that he was more likely red bearded and not the source of the fairy tale. But who knows: perhaps Beneditti was misled. Biographies I've read of Cagliostro are so different that one might think they were of different men.

This book is a comprehensive and valuable one, lacking only details which only a more lengthy history could provide.

Chester D. Cuthbert
January 7, 1999

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
C A N A D I E N

FirstCity Trust

The Diary of a Drug Fiend; Toronto, The Ryerson Press,
no date (1922, Collins) 368p.

In Book 1 - Paradiso, Sir Peter Pendragon tells how he, an aviator, met and married Unlimited Louise Laleham, became involved with drugs to heighten the experiences of their honeymoon, met a former schoolmate and was swindled by him, and returned to England broke and enslaved to drugs.

In Book 2 - Inferno, Lou keeps a "magical" diary at the behest of Basil King Lamus, in which she describes the very depths of degradation to which she and her husband "Cookie" descend in their efforts to satisfy their desire for drugs. This section of the story is the only one containing elements of fantasy, when they explore the magical library of an ancestor of Sir Peter's, raising his ghost, and surrounding themselves with what are possibly emanations from their own obsessed minds. Finally admitting their defeat, they go to King Lamus who holds out to them a promise of cure.

Book 3 - Purgatorio tells how Peter and Lou find themselves thrown on their own resources in Telepylus, where old people, women and children have gathered under Lamus' leadership to "find themselves" and work at what they truly wish to do, and not at what the false standards of the world seem to dictate. Lou is consistent: she is the true wife who subordinates everything to the welfare of Peter, and throws off the influence of drugs much faster than he; Peter goes back to things mechanical, forgets self in his enthusiasm, and thus frees himself from drugs.

Lamus is Crowley's idealised portrait of himself, with the sole purpose of living for others, but paradoxical and apparently contemptuous of contemporary standards. He does succeed in demonstrating that he can influence Peter and Lou to free themselves from drugs, but only when they themselves desire this.

This seems to me to be a practical and optimistic portrayal of a cure for drug addiction, when the addicts have apparently sunk so far as to be beyond redemption. Sordid as the subject and circumstances are, and realistic as this portrayal is, the book is on the whole a good one. A place for it should be made in any good library, whether of fantasy or general books.

Cammell says that Crowley claims to have written this book in 27 days. It is fiction with a moral. Published by Collins in England and by the Ryerson Press in Canada, its sponsors in that respect were apparently cowed by press misrepresentations of the novel into withdrawing it from sale after it had sold only 3000 copies. November, 1922 was its publication date according to Cammell.

On Page 225, Crowley interjects an italicized note by Lamus concerning Maugham's "The Magician" to the effect that after portraying the magician with contempt he yet had to admit that the magician had succeeded in creating Living Beings. Crowley does not belabor the point, perhaps from pride refusing to offer any further defense. This book inclines me favorably toward Crowley, more so than either of his other books that I have read.

London, Sphere Books Limited (1972) 382p.
(1969, John Symonds & Kenneth Grant)

Crown, Morris

Go-Go Boy; Tantee, California, Blueboy Library (#80076)
(1977, Publishers) 184p.

A dancer in a homo-sexual club becomes a prostitute when his drinking and irregular sleeping habits cause him to lose the job. Trying to insist that he is "straight" is in vain, and his efforts to avoid certain sexual practices yield to his need for money. Though he yearns occasionally for a woman, he finds himself impotent when a single occasion near the end of the book affords him an opportunity.

The degradation and gradual descent to dereliction is portrayed almost realistically, but this so-called novel is merely pornographic in intent.

It is very poorly written, and worthless apart from its description of a social problem.

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

C E L E B R A T I N G
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
C A S E F Ê T E !

FirstCity Trust

Cruz, Nicky

Satan on the Loose; Signet #6137) (1973, author) 144p.
Old Tappan, New Jersey, Spire Books #? (1973, Cruz) 144p.

Apparently publish simultaneously, the latter for religious distribution, both were printed in August, ~~1954~~. Our son Raymond ¹⁹⁷⁴ is Reverend Doctor of a local Disciples-United church, and I have seen enough Christian propaganda to recognise this book as belonging in that category.

The author's conversion to Christianity, I infer, was detailed in Wilkinson's The Cross and the Switchblade, a book I have not read. Cruz says his father was a witch and his mother a medium. Cruz and many of his friends whose experiences he describes were involved in various occult studies and practices, and this book is designed to warn people against all occultism.

Having accepted Jesus as his saviour, Cruz feels safe from the perils of demonism, but is convinced that he experienced its reality. He and many of his friends were terrified by parapsychological phenomena which they attributed to demons; in fact, Cruz, on page 16, describes how his father exorcised a demon from a patient whose leg was so swollen that death threatened and..."five long things that looked like worms slithered out of his toe, as the swelling began to go down". (In other books I have twice read how demons were exorcised through the great toe. CDC). Unqualified acceptance of this by Cruz is a factor in my finding his book unconvincing, although I do not doubt that many of the facts narrated could occur.

Cruz is justified in warning against the dangers of occult practices. However, my view is that all facts should be scientifically investigated: to ignore these is to prevent increasing our knowledge of nature's laws.

Cruz is convinced that both he and his father were temporarily possessed by demons; Cruz felt impelled to kill his beloved wife.

Cruz quotes other authors in support of his warning against practising occultism; his book was published when The Exorcist was exciting popular interest in the subject.

Chester D. Cuthbert
January 18, 1998

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
ÇA SI FÊTE!

FirstCity Trust

Cuddon, J. A.

Acts of Darkness; New York, David McKay Company, Inc., (1963, author); First American Edition, 1964 386p.

This long novel deals with English fox-hunting society and a priest who is warned by a sinister character who has prevision and other psychic powers in addition to stage magic expertise that he will come to grief because of an insane but beautiful girl who is obsessed by him. Apart from this strange character the book has little of interest to a fantasy fan, being a society novel of the English countryside.

Chester D. Cuthbert
November 4, 1999



CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA

Cuddon, J. A.

A multitude of Sins; London, Barrie and Rockliff; (1961,
author) 347p.

This first novel by the author of a successful travel book is the story of a monk who returns from a Carthusian monastery to his father's home in London because he doubts the permanence of his vocation and decides to devote himself to helping a charity hostel run by a wealthy woman, a distant relation of his father, whose ability and personality is very attractive. The ex-monk had previously had a liason with an aimless artistic woman whose beauty continued to attract him, but his love had died.

An apostate priest who has worked at the hostel for years becomes friendly with him and derides the Catholic religion. The ex-priest falls in love with the same girl and she bears his boy who is threatened with lifetime blindness. A newsvendor who is probably insane robs the charity lady, sets fire to the building and burns to death a wastrel who is assumed to be himself, thus freeing him from suspicion. However, the ex-priest abandons the girl, catches the villain in time to watch him die, and the ex-monk marries his former lover to give the blind boy a home.

The ex-monk's father is a retired General writing war books who had had a liason years before with the hostel lady. This had disrupted his family life, but was completely over.

The writing is far too detailed and the book's motive lacks clarity. There is much discussion about the vocation of priests and the Catholic faith, but not much information about the hostel apart from describing some of the regulars including two former prostitutes (sorry!).

There is no fantastic element in this novel, but a later book Acts of Darkness had one character with occult powers and stage magician ability sufficient to place it in the fantasy category.

Chester D. Cuthbert
November 4, 1999

Cullen, Seamus

Astra and Flondrix; Allen Lane/Penguin Books Ltd.,
(1976, Cullen) 286p.

This is an erotic fantasy novel involving a pair of young lovers, elves, dwarfs, magicians, royalty, secret love affairs, transfigurations and transformations, swords and sorcery, and atomic and space sciences. I was interrupted several times during the reading of this novel, and the plot is not clear in my mind, but is unimportant in any event.

Although well written and extending the erotic element well beyond the average I have read, this is not important in the field of fantasy. Exaggerations of the sexual aspect may attract some readers, but I do not consider this book as worth re-reading.

Announcing...



The Junior League of Winnipeg's

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE



Saturday, May 13, 1989


CRESCENTWOOD COMMUNITY CLUB

Corner of Corydon & Rockwood

9:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Prices reduced 50% after 1:00 p.m.

*Lots of bargains, concession
stand, and a playground at the
club for the kids.*



SPECIAL OFFER

The Junior League of Winnipeg

THRIFT SHOP

776B Corydon Ave.

10% Off All Merchandise

VALID UNTIL MAY 30, 1989



Cullingford, Guy

Conjurer's Coffin; London, Hammond, Hammond & Company,
(1954, C. L. Taylor) 253p.

Jessie Milk, an honest, middle-aged spinster, accepts the job of desk clerk at a theatrical hotel just before the Coronation. Among the guests are a retired naval captain, with whom she falls in love, a conjurer Gene (the Genie) Gorman, whose wife he has married for her money, and Gay Shelley who is practically a concubine though living in a separate room at the hotel.

Jessie witnesses Gene's act at the theater, and Gene fools her about the disappearance of the hotelier's cat. He uses her to prove an alibi, by misdirection, and whether he or Gay actually kills his wife Stella is a bit uncertain, as he finally confesses under pressure from Jessie, and imminent death.

This is a pleasant little murder mystery, with good characterization, not much action, but considerable background of the London coronation scene and hotel life. It is not fantasy, but the psychology and expertise of conjuring are of interest.

Cullum, Ridgwell

The Devil's Keg

British title of The Story of the Foss River Ranch

Old John Allandale loves his quarterbreed niece Joaquina but is unable to control his gambling propensities and takes to drink. Jacky is the capable manager of the Foss River Ranch and is very kind to her uncle though she deplores his weaknesses. She loves Hon. "Lord" Bill Bunning-Ford, English younger son of a noble family who has a neighboring ranch but loses it in gambling with Lablache, the storekeeper who is the money-man and gradually by crooked gambling and usury gets to control the settlement, including the half-breeds who camp nearby.

Lablache is passionately determined to marry Jacky, and brings her uncle under his control by threatening ruin which would affect her. Bill discovers how Lablache cheats at cards, and even though he loses his ranch to the usurer, says nothing but plots revenge with Jacky, whose half-brother is an outlaw who has died in the muskeg west of the settlement, even though he and Jacky knew a path to its far side. Bill impersonates the dead brother, rustles Lablache's cattle, burns his ranch home and store, and finally faces Labache when the latter kills Jacky's uncle who has caught him cheating when they play for clearance of John's debts in exchange for his supporting Lablache's suit.

The half-breeds who have been oppressed by Lablache insist on forcing him to enter the muskeg, where he dies. Jacky and Bill decide to cross the muskeg and start a new life away from Foss River.

This story, though interesting and well-told, is not the most logical I have read. There is no explanation of why the people who have been cheated by Lablache could not have exposed him by simply being persuaded by Bill to do so after his discovery of the cheating method. Bill and Jacky took the law in their own hands, thus causing the death of a Mountie in the way of duty (and misjudgment), destroyed property which could have been assigned to the wronged ones to repay their losses, and in general acted as though the romantic situation was more important than a logical disposition of the difficulty. In some ways Labache is the most interesting character in the book.

The "eye for an eye" theme is overworked in this novel, but I found it of interest.

Old John Allandale loves his quarterbreed niece Joaquina but is unable to control his gambling propensities and takes to drink. Jacky is the capable manager of the Foss River Ranch and is very kind to her uncle though she deplores his weaknesses. She loves Hon. "Lord" Bill Bunning-Ford, English younger son of a noble family who has a neighboring ranch but loses it in gambling with Lablache, the storekeeper who is the money-man and gradually by crooked gambling and usury gets to control the settlement, including the half-breeds who camp nearby.

Lablache is passionately determined to marry Jacky, and brings her uncle under his control by threatening ruin which would affect her. Bill discovers how Lablache cheats at cards, and even though he loses his ranch to the usurer, says nothing but plots revenge with Jacky, whose half-brother is an outlaw who has died in the muskeg west of the settlement, even though he and Jacky knew a path to its far side. Bill impersonates the dead brother, rustles Lablache's cattle, burns his ranch home and store, and finally faces Labache when the latter kills Jacky's uncle who has caught him cheating when they play for clearance of John's debts in exchange for his supporting Lablache's suit.

The half-breeds who have been oppressed by Lablache insist on forcing him to enter the muskeg, where he dies. Jacky and Bill decide to cross the muskeg and start a new life away from Foss River.

This story, though interesting and well-told, is not the most logical I have read. There is no explanation of why the people who have been cheated by Lablache could not have exposed him by simply being persuaded by Bill to do so after his discovery of the cheating method. Bill and Jacky took the law in their own hands, thus causing the death of a Mountie in the way of duty (and misjudgment), destroyed property which could have been assigned to the wronged ones to repay their losses, and in general acted as though the romantic situation was more important than a logical disposition of the difficulty. In some ways Lablache is the most interesting character in the book.

The "eye for an eye" theme is overworked in this novel, but I found it of interest.

Culp, John H.

The Bright Feathers; New York, Ballantine Books, 2nd
Printing, December, 1970 (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1965)
320p.

This is a low-key adventure story of the pioneering west, anecdotal and certainly far from the epic proportions blurbed by the publishers. As a portrayal of the types of people and incidents of frontier existence around the Texas border, it has value, but is written in the first person by Scrape Dawkins, who, with two companions around his own age of 16, is a wanderer with a goat foisted on him by a crooked railway conductor. Their meetings with outlaws and Indians, in and out of pioneer settlements, are detailed; but without significance to the larger scheme of things which should be the theme of epics.

Probably well-researched, this is still not above the average story of its type.

Fires of Beltane; London, Michael Joseph Ltd. (1936)
287p.

Norah Keogh, whose family had once owned the largest estate in the district but whose father had died early and left his incompetent widow in charge of his sister and the girl, falls in love with the weak, handsome relative of the present Lord of the Manor who claims descent from a French Count. He is controlled by the daughter of the Lord, a big shrewd match for her father, who marries him and takes him to America where they do succeed though her greed makes her a fat horror. Norah, forsaken, bears John St. Blaise's son Brian, but hates the child because of his father and her shame; and marries Carolan, a stupid farmer, to give her boy a name and give her hope of making enough money to buy the old ancestral home.

Carolan fails, and their first son, the image of his father, fails also, through stupidity. Norah's aunt favors her first son Brian, and sees that he is educated; Brian goes to Africa and to other places in the world and returns with a fortune to buy the ancestral home and give it to his mother for her lifetime, it then to revert to him.

Norah has visions of the Virgin, and of the strange woman whose appearance heralds misfortune; her mystic vision seems to sustain her in youth, but does not return until after her son has redeemed the love his father had given and lost.

This is well-written, a realistic novel but with mystic overtones, and may be important in studying the life of the authoress.

Anthology

World's Great Mystery Stories: American and English Masterpieces; Edited, with an Introduction, by Will Cuppy; Cleveland and New York, The World Publishing Company; Tower Books Edition (First Printing January, 1943) 299pp

Contents

1. Introduction	Will Cuppy	9
2. A Rose for Emily	William Faulkner	15
3. The Adventure of the Clapham Cook	Agatha Christie	25
4. A Message to Laura	Francis Brett Young	39
5. Suspicion	Dorothy L. Sayers	54
6. The Fiend of the Cooperage	Arthur Conan Doyle	70
7. Miss Mary Pask	Edith Wharton	83
8. The Signal-Man	Charles Dickens	98
9. The Cosy Room	Arthur Machen	111
10. A Bird in the Hand	Irvin S. Cobb	117
11. The Listener	Algernon Blackwood	137
12. A Short Trip Home	F. Scott Fitzgerald	163
13. The Magic of Fear	Edgar Wallace	185
14. The Door in the Wall	H. G. Wells	201
15. The Interruption	W. W. Jacobs	218
16. The Dream Woman	Wilkie Collins	231
17. The Boarded Window	Ambrose Bierce	255
18. Vain Oblations	Katharine Fullerton Gerould	260
19. Who Do You Think Did It? or, The Mixed-Up Murder Mystery	Stephen Leacock	279

Modern Ghosts; New York and London, Harper & Brothers
Publishers (1890) vii-xv plus 225 p.

Contents

Introduction	George William Curtis	vii
1. The Horla	Guy de Maupassant	1
	t. Jonathan Sturges	
2. Siesta	Alexander I. Kielland	59
	t. Charles Flint McClumpha	
3. The Tall Woman	Pedro Antonio de Alarcon	79
	t. Rollo Ogden	
4. On the River	Guy de Maupassant	113
	t. Jonathan Sturges	
5. Maese Perez, the Organist	Gustavo Adolfo Becquer	129
	t. Rollo Ogden	
6. Fioraccio	Giovanni Magherini-Graziani	157
	t. Mary A. Craig	
7. The Silent Woman	Leopold Kompert	189
	t. Charles Flint McClumpha	

(1) is a science fiction horror story about an invisible entity which the narrator believes to be a possible successor to mankind in evolutionary progression, and has most of the ideas used in this type of story. It should always be available for reference, and is the most important story in this volume. (2) concerns an Irish pianist whose malevolent use of the bass end of the keyboard upsets a casual afternoon party. (3) woman dressed in black and with a small fan appears to herald death and is dreaded because of her horrible appearance and significance. She declares that she has known her victim since before his birth. (4) man in a boat is frightened when unable to raise his anchor and leave when mist enshrouds the river and its banks, and when help arrives discovers that the anchor has fouled on the body of a dead man. (5) After death, a great organist refuses to permit a poor one to play his organ, and his daughter, though an accomplished musician, refuses to displace him. (6) A fence, mean and blasphemous during his life, is flung upwards many times from his grave in consecrated ground which refuses to receive him, and is finally disposed of in many fathoms of water at the behest of the devil which possesses him. (7) A woman who leaves her husband on her wedding day because she admits that she has married him only for his wealth, is given the penance of silence by a rabbi, and even though she obeys and has two lovely children, the first, a girl, dying, the second a boy scholar, maintains her vow until her son triumphs in a speech, when, on breaking her vow she becomes faint and dies.

Of all these stories 2 and 7 are the least supernatural.

Curtis, Jean-Louis

"The Neon Halo": The Face of the Future (subtitle); Translated from the French by Humphrey Hare; London, Secker + Warburg, 1958 239 pp.

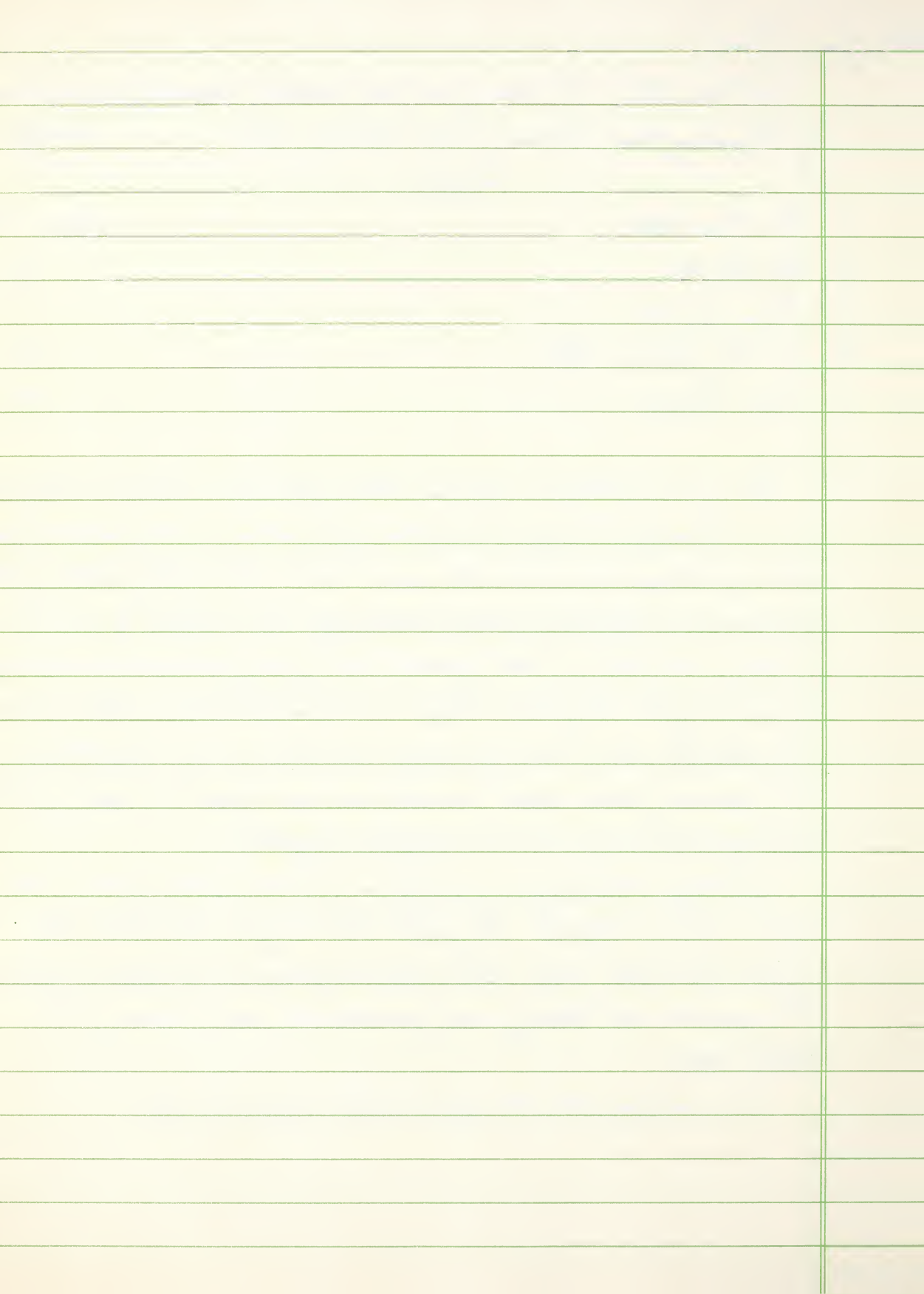
Contents

1.	The Neon Halo	Page 7.
2.	The Genitor	72.
3.	Ideas to Sell	113.
4.	A Very Exclusive Club	140.
5.	One Another	189.

These five novelettes are sequels, stories placed in France in the year 2000 or thereabouts. The first is about a social worker in concentration camps who is publicized as a saint; the second about a "donor" for parthenogenetic births who is ineffective in personal relationships but is "father" of over 9000 children; the third is least important about a purveyor of ideas who is victimized by his own greed; the fourth is about an innocuous club which is taken over by the authorities as a means of ending a suicidal mania; the fifth describes the conformity which stifles individualism and happiness, replacing these by conditioned environment and suggested acceptance.

Although interesting as examples of French "future fiction" these stories seem artificial. The jacket blurb compares the book with "Brave New World" and "1984", with emphasis on the former comparison. It is probable that Huxley's novel provided the main source of this writer's ideas.

An interesting, but not important satire of a possible future.



Curtis, Wardon Allan

The Strange Adventures of Mr. Middleton; Toronto, McLeod & Allen, 1904 (1903, Herbert S. Stone & Company, Chicago) 311p.

Although the author appears to have been well-read and intelligent, these stories are fanciful and even silly. Possibly intended as satire, a few of them have fantastic elements which are sufficient to place them in the fantasy field.

However, attractive as the pictorial cover of the book is, and the attempt of the author to give the tales an oriental cast by most of them told by one, I consider reading the book was time wasted.

Chester D. Cuthbert
November 4, 1999

Contents.

1. Back to God's Country	9
2. The Yellow-Back	54
3. The Fiddling Man	79
4. L'Ange	107
5. The Case of Beauvais	115
6. The Other Man's Wife	128
7. The Strength of Men	137
8. The Match	160
9. The Honor of Her People	179
10. Bucky Severn	203
11. His First Penitent	209
12. Peter God	220
13. The Mouse	252

These stories, constituting the 9th Curwood book I have read in 1970, suggest a basis for summarizing my ideas of Curwood as a writer. The other books on which my opinions are based, in order of reading, are:

1. The Wolf Hunters
2. The Gold Hunters
3. The Danger Trail
4. The Honor of the Big Snows
5. Flower of the North
6. Kazan
7. Baree, Son of Kazan
8. God's Country—and the Woman

Curwood's writing style and his stories when considered independently of each other are adequate and interesting. A curious lack of imagination and inventiveness are disclosed when one considers these stories as a group, however.

The most striking element in Curwood's books is his compulsion to base them on the voluntary or involuntary violation of the ideal code of purity in women. In the majority of cases his plots depend on this element; chastity is the ideal, and it is usually broken by an intruder from England or southern cities. His women inspire lust in some men; virtue and honor in others. Dogs love his heroines, but seldom the male characters. Another sign of Curwood's lack of inventiveness is the similarity in names of his characters; this is most confusing, as one never knows whether a character of one story is the same as a character of the same name in a different story. In the short stories in this volume, the same story is told several times with slight variations; and the same story has already been the basic plot for some of the novels.

Unless his later novels disclose new elements, these are more than sufficient to convey all that Curwood had to say.

Curwood, James Oliver

Baree, Son of Kazan; Illustrated by Frank B. Hoffman;
New York, Grosset & Dunlap (Doubleday, Page & Company, 1917)
303p.

This sequel to "Kazan" recapitulates much of the material making up the former book. Baree's puppyhood is told in greater detail than in the former book, but he, too, is said to have formed an attachment for a girl, in this case Nepeeese daughter of Pierrot du Quesne, for whom the wicked factor Bush McTaggart lusted; and who sought the death of her father so that she would be helpless to resist him. Baree finally kills McTaggart, leaving Nepeeese for Jim Carvel who had killed the man responsible for his own father's death.

The life of Baree in the wild, his mating, his encounters with other wild folk and his battle with McTaggart, make up the story. To credit Baree with all the expertise shown in robbing McTaggart's trapline and warring on him is perhaps carrying the story a bit too far into romanticism, but this is probably an average Curwood book.

The Crippled Lady of Peribonka; Illustrations by John Alan Maxwell; Toronto, Canada, Doubleday, Doran & Gundy, Limited, 1929 251p.

Apparently inspired by Hemon's "Maria Chapdelaine", this is a story of Quebec outposts, where a wealthy engineer is building a dam, destroying against his own wishes the beauty of the natural wilderness. His wife does not like this life, and spends her time at various world resorts; his bitterness is assuaged by the beautiful dark-haired daughter of a woman dying of cancer, who brings flowers for his office and teaches the construction company's staff's children at the local school.

After meeting the teacher, his wife realizes that her husband has fallen in love; she is herself in love with an artist, and seeks ways to enable everyone to achieve happiness. The teacher follows the engineer into rapids and almost certain death; when they are saved, it appears that their love, acknowledged during peril, must be sacrificed to the realities of civilization; but the teacher is crippled by a landslide which she starts in place of the engineer to save him. When it seems possible that she will recover from the paralysis of her lower extremities, the engineer and his wife are divorced and all have the prospect of happiness.

This is a typical Curwood story, with the usual elements, but told with greater economy of words. It is probably more sophisticated, and has a way of life, rather than a human villain, as the antagonist; but it is merely a retelling of the "human triangle" story, with everyone friendly and helpful according to his lights, rather than menacing.

Curwood, James Oliver

The Danger Trail; illustrated by Charles Livingston Bull
(in color); New York, Grosset & Dunlap (Bobbs-Merrill, 1910)
306p.

Jack Howland, engineer in charge of building a railway from Prince Albert to Hudson's Bay, is mistaken for a man of the same name who had dishonored a northern woman. Three sons and a daughter of the woman seek to kill him, but the daughter falls in love with him and tries to save him from the vengeance of her brothers with the aid of Jean Croisset, a half-breed who feels that Howland deserves death as the son of his name-sake.

When the error is discovered, Howland marries Meleese with the blessing of her brothers, but not until his life has been endangered many times, and he has fought fiercely with Jean Croisset.

This is a good adventure story of the north, but as with many of Curwood's stories, the suspense is artificially maintained by withholding, either from the lead character or from the reader, information which, if disclosed, would have meant a resolution of the problem before the difficulties could commence.

Croisset plays a minor role in "The Honor of the Big Snows".

Flower of the North: A Modern Romance; New York, Grosset & Dunlap (Harper & Brothers, March, 1912); Front. 308p.

Philip Whittemore has invited his friend Tom Gregson to help him battle inimical interests and give shareholders a decent break in developing fisheries. Gregson falls in love with the daughter of a financier to whom Philip had been attached; and Philip falls in love with Jeanne D'Arcambal, who is "sister" of Pierre Couchee since Pierre rescued her from death when her mother died in a snowstorm.

Eileen Brokaw persuades Gregson to leave Philip because she has learned that her father the financier has played false. Philip finds friendship with D'Arcambal by saving Jeanne from drowning and from the inimical forces; but is dismayed to be refused by Jeanne. He learns that a gang foreman at his own camp is visited by Jeanne; and is heart-broken until he finds out that the foreman is Jeanne's father. By chance, after Pierre kills Jeanne's father, Philip learns that her true father is D'Arcambal, and that the foreman was an intruder who despoiled her mother.

The balance of the story follows pretty much the pattern which Curwood established in other novels; this is merely an average performance for him.

Curwood, James Oliver

God's Country--and the Woman; Illustrated by William Oberhardt and Norman Borchardt; Garden City, N. Y. & Toronto Doubleday, Page & Company, 1922 (1915) (1914 Red Book) 347p.

Philip Weyman is asked by Josephine Adare to assume the name Paul Darcambal and act the part of her husband without questions. He agrees, but asks that she use his name Philip. She is accompanied by a faithful half-breed Jean Croisset, who knows her secret, but will not tell Philip.

Philip finally guesses that the child which she claims is actually her mother's. To save her parents' happiness, she has assumed the burden of its illegitimacy. Lang, father of the child, has demanded Josephine in place of her mother as the price of his silence, and has written letters, one carried by his henchman Thoreau, purveyor of liquor and women, which will divulge Miriam's guilt.

Croisset dies defending Josephine; John Adare and the forest people, with the aid of Josephine's wild-dog pack and Philip defeat Lang and Thoreau; and all ends happily.

The elements of almost all of Curwood's books are repeated here; he seems to have had almost no imaginative power.

Curwood, James Oliver

God's Country: The Trail to Happiness; New York, Cosmopolitan Book Corporation 1921 122p.

This book is a non-fiction outline of Curwood's philosophy. He tells how he became a noted hunter, then became convinced that all life is of equal value to God and that only by reverting to nature and away from artificiality was it possible to achieve health and happiness. In the end a kind of pantheistic vitalism, eschewing religion of any formalized description, became his creed.

As the credo of a nature-lover, this little book has considerable appeal. It seems to me to be an honest book, and in many respects it is Curwood's effort to draw people away from spiritualism to which many people turned after World War One.

Curwood, James Oliver

The Gold Hunters: A Story of Life and Adventure in the Hudson Bay Wilds; Illustrated by C. M. Relyea; New York, Grosset & Dunlap (Bobbs-Merrill 1909) 328p.

This sequel to "The Wolf Hunters" describes the search for the gold of John Ball and his two partners, the finding of it behind a waterfall in a cavern from which come eyeless fish, and of John Ball a madman for 25 years.

The Woongas have captured Minnetaki, but Roderick Drew rescues her and kills Woonga. Leaving her at the Post, the two boys and Mukoki follow the trail outlined by the map of the earlier book, and in the end find riches.

This is a well-written adventure story, but juvenile in action and appeal.

Curwood, James Oliver

Green Timber; Completed by Dorothea A. Bryant; Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., 1930; 299p.

The first six chapters of this novel were written by Curwood, and he had planned the entire story, but died before he could complete it. This is the fourth re-written version; the first two versions were discarded; the third was published in the September, October and November, 1929 issues of McCall's Magazine and differs widely from the final work.

Even the part written by Curwood is below his standard; it is a gangster yarn in the Packard tradition, with the hero at first a Robin Hood of crime, but brought to his senses by a beautiful girl and the idea of forest conservation in northern Michigan. His redemption is accompanied by pathetic incidents involving a waif-girl and the deformed gangster who loves her; the evil attempt of a gangster to captivate the beauty into the power of another gangster and later into prostitution.

The dialogue is stilted; the action slow; the motivations of the characters are not logically developed, nor are the situations. This is a pretty weak conclusion to the writing career of the author, but not entirely his fault.

Curwood, James Oliver

The Honor of the Big Snows; New York, A. L. Burt Company
(Cosmopolitan, 1911) 318p.

The story of the love of Jan Thoreau from the age of 15 for Melisse Cummins, motherless baby of an HBC factor; his self-sacrifice because he believed himself the illegitimate son of a southern invader of the honest north; and his ultimate discovery of his legitimacy and the fact that Melisse loved him for himself and regardless of his background; this is, by 1970 standards, an old-fashioned, idealistic love story.

Jan goes to school in order to teach Melisse, saves a young Englishman whom he thinks she loves, and from his own tragedy saves a wealthy southerner from committing a similar mistake to that which his own father had done. A narrative of the activity relating to the spread of small-pox among the Indians gives a graphic description of the horror and grief it caused, the burning of the possessions and cabins of those who died.

Jan's lead dog, who dies from a poison trap, is named Kazan and is described as a one-eyed dog, almost sightless as a puppy, which Jan had protected and kept and loved for ten years. Whether this is the Kazan after whom a later book was named is not yet clear to me.

Croisset and his wife, who played a part in "The Danger Trail", play minor roles in this book. It begins to appear that Curwood liked to tie his books together by means of characters and incidents from one to another.

Curwood, James Oliver

The Hunted Woman; Frontispiece by Frank B. Hoffman;
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., (1915,
1916) 324p.

Note: British title: The Valley of Gold.

John Aldous, writer of novels exposing the faults and inadequacies of women, falls in love with Joanne Gray who is seeking proof of the death of her husband Mortimer FitzHugh. Her father, an explorer with whom she had travelled for years in Africa, and who, because of unpleasantness relating to the divorce of his wife had made her promise never to resort to this means of dissolution of marriage, had wanted her to marry the son of his best friend, not knowing that young FitzHugh was a rotter.

Just after the marriage took place, a young girl came seeking FitzHugh, with her baby. FitzHugh and his father, not disclaiming responsibility but refusing to do more than buy the girl off, attributed the mistake to youthful indiscretion; but Joanne refused to live with FitzHugh and the marriage was never consummated. Hearing of FitzHugh's death, Joanne felt she must confirm it before living her own life; she is still faithful to her promise to her father not to divorce.

FitzHugh had actually murdered his father and faked a death and burial in order to escape investigation. He and Quade carried on a traffic in liquor and women; Quade saw Joanne and determined to entrap her; Aldous and his friend Donald MacDonald protected her.

Donald had when young with a party of miners discovered a Valley of Gold where his wife was killed in a struggle for possession of it. When he escaped, he was half-mad and was unable to locate the Valley. Joe, a half-breed, led him to understand its whereabouts, but betrayed him to FitzHugh, alias Rann. Donald sought the Valley mainly to locate his wife's grave; he and Aldous race Rann and Quade; Rann and Quade are killed, and Aldous and Joanne are able to marry.

Like most of Curwood's books, the elements of the story are similar to those of others. This is merely an average adventure novel.

Curwood, James Oliver

Isobel: A Romance of the Northern Trail; New York,
Grosset & Dunlap (May, 1913, Harper) 281p.

This book is another re-hash of Curwood's stock characters and events: even the characters' names are similar to those in other books, and Kazan the old dog leader comes briefly into the story.

Isobel is the wife of a man wanted for murder, and is loved not only by him but by the Mountie who captures him to save him from a renegade Mountie. Isobel's daughter of the same name is the golden-haired child who supplies the sentimental and inspirational motivation of the lonely men of the north.

This is about average for Curwood; perhaps the sentimentality is over-emphasized.

$\frac{1}{4}$ wolf, Shusky, Kazan has been a dog once called Pedro, and McCready recognizes him when Thorpe and his wife Isobel hire McCready as guide. McCready clubs Thorpe and attacks Isobel, who is saved by Kazan killing McCready. Knowing that Thorpe distrusts him and fearing the consequences of having killed McCready, Kazan reverts to the wild.

He meets Gray Wolf who accepts him as mate. Hunting, they are attacked by a lynx who blinds Gray Wolf, and kills their whelps. Their enmity for lynx causes them to seek out and fight all they meet; Pierre Radisson and his daughter Joan, on their way to meet Joan's husband, find Kazan attracted to them by Joan's voice which is much like Isobel's, and when Pierre dies, Kazan pulls Joan and her baby to safety.

Paul Weyman and Henri Loti, the latter a lynx-hunter, are amazed when they find lynxes torn to pieces in Henri's traps, and the trails of the two wolves, always two by two because Gray Wolf is guided by contact with Kazan's flank. Because of his girl who loathes killing, Weyman saves Kazan from Henri's wrath. Kazan and Gray Wolf survey the results of the Red Death plague, suffer hunger, have their home destroyed by beavers, battle the beavers in company with an otter who bores through their dam; Gray Wolf gives birth to Baree who leaves them as soon as he can shift for himself.

Sandy McTrigger captures Kazan and beats him into submission. He arranges to have Kazan fight Harker's Dane, but the two dogs sense the situation and team up in the cage against their mutual enemy, man, refusing to fight. They are bought by a student of dogs and wildlife, Prof. McGill, and McGill kills McTrigger when the latter tries to rob him. In the end Joan and Thorpe return to the wilderness because Joan has lost her health in the city, and Kazan and Gray Wolf resume their life on the Sun Rock.

This is an episodic animal story rather than a novel, and does not adequately portray the relationships between men and animals. It and "The Grizzly King" must have been popular enough to encourage Curwood to write the sequel to this book.

Curwood, James Oliver

The Valley of Gold; London, etc., Cassell and Company
Ltd. (August, 1933 reprint) (1916) 306p.
Note: American title: The Hunted Woman.

For notes, see under American title.

The Wolf Hunters: A Tale of Adventure in the Wilderness; Illustrations by C. M. Relyea; New York, Grosset & Dunlap (Cosmopolitan, 1908) 319p.

Roderick Drew in Detroit has made friends with Wabigoon and his sister Minnetaki of Northern Ontario. Wabi invites Rod to join in a wolf-hunting expedition, feeling sure that Rod will make more money in this way than from his ill-paid job in Detroit, on the basis of which he had been supporting his mother.

The Woongas, an outlaw Indian tribe, had sworn enmity against Wabi's family, and from the time the party, including an obsessed wolf-hunter Mukoki, set their trap-lines, the Woongas trail them. Rod discovers, on the basis of a birch-bark map clutched in a skeleton's hand, the probably location of a gold mine, nugget samples from which have been found in an abandoned cabin. While Wabi is alone at the cabin, the Woongas attack, capture him, and burn the cabin, stealing all their furs.

Rod and Mukoki re-capture Wabi, kill many of the Woongas, and ultimately arrive at the H.B.C. trading post, only to find they are too late to see Minnetaki; but Rod's share of their fur and gold finds amounts to \$700, more than he would have made in a year in Detroit; and with the promise of Minnetaki to see him again, Rod is content.

This is really a juvenile adventure story, well-written and interesting, but without depth.

"The Gold Hunters" appears to be a sequel.

Joy Street; New York, Lion Library Editions (February, 1951; August, 1952; February, 1956), (William Godwin, Inc., 1933). LL-75 232p.

Because this is the first novel of the author who later wrote "Second Sight", and because of comments on the cover by William Faulkner and John Cowper Powys, I read this novel carefully.

It is well-written in the first person by a bootlegger's truck-driver, an American of Italian descent who is living in the Italian district of Boston. Frankie Ricci is told by a henchman of a rival bootlegger to see Annetti who would treat him right, and possibly influenced by a \$10. cut in wages, Ricci thinks of leaving his boss Visconti. He meets a dance-hall girl Rose Castellano who likes him sufficiently to go to his room after a meal and a few drinks, and dates her steadily for a week, putting off his appointment with Annetti. Celia Riley, a former stage burlesque blonde who has been married to Visconti for three years, persuades Ricci to escort her to a meeting with some of her old stage gang; this arouses Visconti to suspect Ricci when Celia leaves him suddenly to return to her old life and an old flame. The story ends with Ricci in fear of his life from Visconti, though he is innocent.

There are two elements of the story which are unconvincing. Ricci is nowhere indicated to be more than a weak punk except that the girl Rose likes him. Yet Annetti angles for him and Visconti takes him more seriously in relation to Celia than Visconti should in view of its having been indicated that he knew Celia played around but was helpless. Also, when the truck driven by Ricci north to obtain Canadian Whiskey is attacked by Annetti's three hoodlums and Tony, Ricci's assistant, is killed, the three drive off in the car without trying to hi-jack the truck and after indicating that the killing was a mistake, though Annetti would countenance it as a warning to Visconti; this seems pointless, especially as it is not clearly indicated that Visconti was seriously trying to invade the more powerful Annetti's territory.

Some of the incidents are irrelevant and are set out at length not justified even by their intrinsic interest, but on the whole this is a praiseworthy job as a first novel. It is not important except perhaps as an instance of the lightness and yet tenderness with which Rose enters the sexual relationship with Ricci. Her leaving her roommate and Ricci to seek a stage job in New York after the dance-hall is raided is a revelation of callousness not clarified by the abrupt ending of the story. A week in the life of a racketeer about sums up this novel.

Fred Stanton falls in love with an older woman Alice Nash, and as in "Joy Street" engages in sexual intercourse during the night of their first meeting. He finds himself compelled to stay with her, and after a week of love-making becomes aware that their relationship has become that of son and mother. He appears to be an unemployed youth, quite willing to accept support from Alice, through cheques from his mother, and from Ruth, a waitress, blaming his mother because she had never forced him to acquire independence. He seeks comfort in drink and women.

Finally realizing that he is helpless to escape Alice's influence, after having left her for Ruth temporarily, he returns to her, takes a gun from her home and attempts suicide. Failing, he gets Ruth to arrange for political help to have the charge of attempted suicide reduced to possession of a gun, and have even this charge dismissed on the ground that he had temporarily, while drunk at a party, taken it from a policeman. This latter plot-item is given an unwarranted amount of space in the book, padding it uselessly and tediously.

This is a poor novel, amateurishly planned and executed. Psychologically, however, it might throw some light on the plight of people like Dave McClintock. It seems, also, to be related to Charles Jackson's "The Lost Weekend", to the extent of portraying an ineffectual, irresponsible, day-dreaming and dependent male, who can see no way of doing anything which will enable him to respect himself.

